

## FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

**PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY**

**DEPARTMENT** Arkansas Department of Health  
**DIVISION** Administrative-Advisory Board for Interpreters between Hearing Individuals and Individuals who are Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, and Oral Deaf  
**PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT** Elizabeth Pitman  
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To comply with Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e), please complete the following Financial Impact Statement and file two copies with the questionnaire and proposed rules.

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE** Rules Governing the Advisory Board for Interpreters between Hearing Individuals and Individuals who are Deaf, Deafblind, Hard of Hearing, and Oral Deaf & Rules Governing the Licensure of Provisional and Qualified Interpreters

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule have a financial impact? Yes ☒ No ☐
2. Is the rule based on the best reasonably obtainable scientific, technical, economic, or other evidence and information available concerning the need for, consequences of, and alternatives to the rule? Yes ☒ No ☐
3. In consideration of the alternatives to this rule, was this rule determined by the agency to be the least costly rule considered? Yes ☒ No ☐

If an agency is proposing a more costly rule, please state the following:

- (a) How the additional benefits of the more costly rule justify its additional cost;

\_\_\_\_\_

- (b) The reason for adoption of the more costly rule;

\_\_\_\_\_

- (c) Whether the more costly rule is based on the interests of public health, safety, or welfare, and if so, please explain; and;

\_\_\_\_\_

- (d) Whether the reason is within the scope of the agency's statutory authority; and if so, please explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a federal rule or regulation, please state the following:

- (a) What is the cost to implement the federal rule or regulation?

**Current Fiscal Year**

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_

**Next Fiscal Year**

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_

Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

(b) What is the additional cost of the state rule?

**Current Fiscal Year**

**Next Fiscal Year**

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

General Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Cash Funds \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Revenue \_\_\_\_\_  
Other (Identify) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any private individual, entity and business subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? Identify the entity(ies) subject to the proposed rule and explain how they are affected.

**Current Fiscal Year**

**Next Fiscal Year**

\$ \$125

\$ \$90

There are approximately 200-300 individuals who are currently acting as deaf interpreters in the state. These individuals will need to apply for initial licensure at a cost of \$125/person. Each subsequent year, these individuals will be required to pay \$90 to renew the license.

6. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to state, county, and municipal government to implement this rule? Is this the cost of the program or grant? Please explain how the government is affected.

**Current Fiscal Year**

**Next Fiscal Year**

Schools-  
\$125.00  
State  
Government-  
\$ 640.00

Schools-  
\$90.00  
State  
Government-  
\$ 640.00

\*Schools may be financially impacted in that they will now have to hire qualified licensed interpreters in school settings. If schools pay the licensure fee for any interpreters they employ, the cost will be \$125.00 per interpreter for initial licensure and application and \$90.00 per year for renewal. In order to maintain the license, the interpreter will have to remain credentialed through a credentialing body, but this should not be an additional cost to the school if they are using credentialed interpreters.

Other costs to state, county, or municipal government include the cost to the Advisory Board and the Arkansas Department of Health of ensuring accessibility of the deaf community to Advisory Board meetings and hearings. Specifically, an interpreter will generally have to be supplied at these meetings (at least four per year) at a cost of approximately \$35-40 /hour. An interpreter can only work for one hour at a time, so two may need to be employed for the quarterly meetings. If the interpreter is traveling from outside of the Little Rock Metro area, he or she will also get travel reimbursement at the state rate.

7. With respect to the agency's answers to Questions #5 and #6 above, is there a new or increased cost or obligation of at least one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per year to a private individual, private entity, private business, state government, county government, municipal government, or to

Yes ☐

No ☒

two (2) or more of those entities combined?

If YES, the agency is required by Ark. Code Ann. § 25-15-204(e)(4) to file written findings at the time of filing the financial impact statement. The written findings shall be filed simultaneously with the financial impact statement and shall include, without limitation, the following:

- (1) a statement of the rule's basis and purpose;
- (2) the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule, including a statement of whether a rule is required by statute;
- (3) a description of the factual evidence that:
  - (a) justifies the agency's need for the proposed rule; and
  - (b) describes how the benefits of the rule meet the relevant statutory objectives and justify the rule's costs;
- (4) a list of less costly alternatives to the proposed rule and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (5) a list of alternatives to the proposed rule that were suggested as a result of public comment and the reasons why the alternatives do not adequately address the problem to be solved by the proposed rule;
- (6) a statement of whether existing rules have created or contributed to the problem the agency seeks to address with the proposed rule and, if existing rules have created or contributed to the problem, an explanation of why amendment or repeal of the rule creating or contributing to the problem is not a sufficient response; and
- (7) an agency plan for review of the rule no less than every ten (10) years to determine whether, based upon the evidence, there remains a need for the rule including, without limitation, whether:
  - (a) the rule is achieving the statutory objectives;
  - (b) the benefits of the rule continue to justify its costs; and
  - (c) the rule can be amended or repealed to reduce costs while continuing to achieve the statutory objectives.